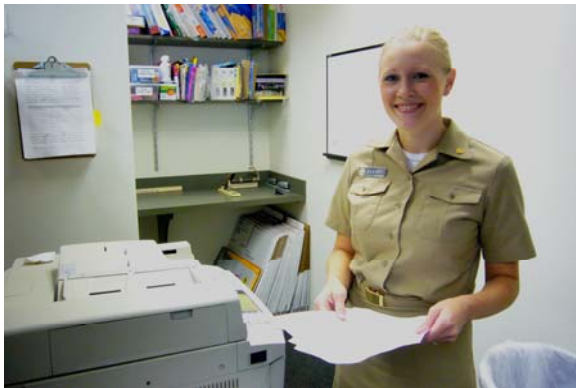


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My summer as an Environmental Health COSTEP has been one of the best experiences of my career. In my field, Public Health Service COSTEP positions are highly competitive and sought after. Being accepted into the program was an incredible honor. The knowledge I gained could not have been matched anywhere else. I was amazed by the intense community health focus in all aspects of the profession. My position at IHS headquarters in Maryland afforded me an interesting perspective on the operations of a government agency, as well as the hierarchy of authority and services. I was able to see how policies and procedures filter down to impact even the smallest service unit. This perspective has allowed me to better understand the work that is done and who it affects. Headquarters is very customer service oriented. Their customers are the American Indian/ Alaska Native people. Every decision that made takes the people they serve into account. Working at headquarters was a unique perspective that many field workers wait years to see, I am appreciative of the opportunity to work in this environment.



Through my exposure to the Commissioned Corps, I learned a lot about their mission and how they work to accomplish it. I am fortunate to have worked along side many Commissioned Corp leaders who have been an excellent example of officership. My daily interaction with the Corps, as well as my opportunity to attend BOTC, has created a definite interest in pursuing a career with the Public Health Service. Much of

the work I was involved in was driven by policy and procedural improvements. This was a great way to begin my career as an Environmental Health Professional. Having this background knowledge will undoubtedly make me a more valuable asset to any Public Health Service team.